



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC SAFETY

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Thank you to all of you who attended one of our recent year-in-review/strategic plan presentations. I believe it's important for you to see your input come to life and see how you can bring positive change to the Department of Public Safety. With your input, our eight divisions are working smarter, harder and are instituting significant change. We set lofty goals for 2013 and accomplished a great deal. We have done the same for 2014, and with your continued commitment, we'll achieve even more together. We have a big goal to target in 2014:

- Reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime, and enhance public safety and quality of life for the citizens and guests of the great city of Indianapolis.

How do we intend to accomplish this? We'll do it together in a number of ways:

- Develop a more robust method of data collection within all departments of DPS, and by early 2015, the Mayor will be able to walk into one room and see all crime data, and quality of life issues in real time and in one place.
- Continue to work with the Mayor and state leaders to pursue mandatory minimum sentencing for those who commit a crime with a gun.
- We will continue our work of evaluating the allocation of our personnel.
- We will work to deal with the issue of heroin that took more than 95 lives in our community last year.
- With the help of our Indy Public Safety Foundation, we will continue to invest in our workforce by training over 600 first-line supervisors. Our goal is to have the best-trained supervisors in America.
- We will work with the community to deal with crime and the social issues that lead to crime and a degradation of quality of life.

In Indianapolis, we are not afraid of a challenge, and in Indianapolis, we understand that public safety is everyone's responsibility. This is Indianapolis, and we can do this!

God Bless and stay safe // Troy

"In Indianapolis, we are not afraid of a challenge, and in Indianapolis, we understand that public safety is everyone's responsibility."

During the recent storm, several officers volunteered to bring their own four-wheel drive vehicles to work, but were advised the city would not authorize it — even though it was a declared state of emergency. Why were officers not allowed to use them?

(See page 2 for our response.)



Park Rangers Amassed Impressive Numbers in 2013



“Indianapolis Parks Rangers are police officers, and work very hard to protect the citizens of Indianapolis.”

- by Jason Kistler, IFD

Paul Gorgievski can't help but smile every time an Indianapolis citizen asks him if he has seen Yogi.

Paul is an Indianapolis Parks Ranger assigned to the Metro North District Day Tact Shift. No, Officer Gorgievski hasn't seen Yogi, the picnic basket-thieving bear, but he did see a lot of action in 2013. Paul and the rest of the Indianapolis Parks Rangers amassed impressive numbers while protecting and serving the public as well as the wonderful parks that Indianapolis has to offer its citizens.

Their uniforms and vehicles are different than those of the MCSO or IMPD, but don't let that fool you, as the parks rangers are fully sworn police officers, and are authorized to act accordingly.

On several occasions, he has been challenged by citizens claiming he has no right or authority to enact the law.

“Many people don't even think we are real police officers with real police powers,” says Officer Gorgievski.

This misconception becomes evident very quickly for citizens who end up breaking the law and are confronted by a parks ranger.

Officer Gorgievski and the other parks rangers take their job seriously, and they are proud and honored to serve this great city.

In the first half of 2013, the Indianapolis Parks Rangers performed 819 traffic stops, made 159 arrests, handed out 327 tickets, and gave 1,450 warnings. The rangers spent 582 hours working 39 assignments at park sponsored events, such as concerts and movies. At 27 special details throughout the city, the rangers provided 639 hours of manpower support to help keep Indianapolis safe for its citizens. The rangers also responded to over 1,700 calls for help throughout the city and its parks.

Indianapolis Parks Rangers are police officers, and work very hard to protect the citizens of Indianapolis. The next time you see a parks ranger, you might consider saying “thank you for the work you do and the service you perform to keep us safe,” and leave Yogi to his picnic baskets.

(Response to e-mail on page 1)

Thank you for your email. I was not aware officers were unable to use personal 4x4 vehicles during our winter storm response. This topic was included in our storm debrief with Mayor Ballard. We will look into it further and will follow up with you.

~God Bless, Troy



IEMS Participates in Successful Move to Eskenazi



On Saturday, Dec. 7, the historic move from Wishard Memorial Hospital to the Sidney & Lois Eskenazi Hospital was completed.

Indianapolis EMS worked with Eskenazi Health and MESH to orchestrate the transfer of 149 patients to the new facility, located at 720 Eskenazi Ave. Indianapolis EMS employees oversaw the transporting and receiving of all patients and had a vital presence in the operations centers at both hospitals, as well as in the incident command center.

A dozen ambulance agencies from across Central Indiana, the Indiana National Guard, the U.S. Navy Reserves and hundreds of volunteers supported Operation Go WEST (West to Eskenazi Saturday Transfer), which was completed successfully ahead of schedule.

The move by the numbers:

- 149 patients moved
- 7 hours from the beginning of the move until the last patient reached their room in the new hospital
- 28 ambulances used to move patients
- 9 Indianapolis EMS ambulances used to move patients
- 51 Indianapolis EMS employees who participated in the move

Indianapolis EMS would like to remind the public that with operations officially transitioning to the Eskenazi Health campus, Wishard Memorial Hospital is now closed. All patients should be taken to the Sidney & Lois Eskenazi Hospital, including arrestees and inmates under the watch of IMPD or the Sheriff's Office.

[Click here to read the 2014 DPS Goals and Objectives](#)

We are wondering if Director Riggs and Chief Hite` could come speak to our small group of churches about what we might do to address the level of violence in the city, what programs are already present and perhaps where he sees a need that we might be able to address. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

~Pastor Miller

(See page 4 for our response)



Cold Weather Adds to the Battle for Firefighters



Cold weather conditions present one of the toughest challenges for firefighters to deal with. Extreme cold, snow, wind, and ice conditions present dangers to firefighters, and first responders that make their job difficult to accomplish.

The main weapon in fighting fires is water and when the temperatures drop below freezing it brings difficulties with footing on the fire ground, equipment freezing and malfunctions, conducting ladder operations on roofs. Many firefighters are injured annually from falls on ice that is caused by cold weather conditions on the fire ground and from hypothermia from extended time spent on emergency scenes in frigid temperatures. Firefighters spend many hours training and preparing for extreme conditions and the challenges that they present to firefighter operations.

Most ladders are made of aluminum and they can become very slippery and dangerous during cold, icy, conditions. Working on roofs in the wind, snow, and ice is very dangerous for firefighters because of the height that is involved and one fall from a roof can end a firefighter's career.

There are situations during heavy snow that the apparatus cannot get close to the emergency location which means firefighters have to walk long distances with gear, ladders, hoses, equipment to take care of the emergency situation.

In order to provide the public safety that is expected from firefighters they do things to make their job safer in cold weather conditions.

Extra-personnel are dispatched to the emergency scene to provide manpower for additional rest and warm-up periods for firefighters. Extra gear is packaged by firefighters so that they can switch to warm gear during extended emergencies. Salt and sand is often used on ice and snow to make footing on the emergency scene safer for firefighters and there is always medical staff at the emergency scene to treat the firefighters for any injury or illness that arises during an emergency situation.

Firefighters face many challenges to complete the tasks that their jobs demand from them and cold weather is one of the toughest challenges they face year in and year out depending on the location of the fire department.

Homeland Security, IMPD Leave No One Behind

At the Division of Homeland Security we take our mission very seriously to ensure that our entire community is prepared for a disaster, including our most vulnerable populations. One IMPD Unit that DHS works very closely with in order to make this a reality is the IMPD Homeless Unit, which is part of IMPD Community Affairs.

Under the direction of Sgt. Bob Hipple, the unit works tirelessly in the days before the bad weather sets in by visiting homeless camps throughout the city and getting people to safety. Sgt. Hipple works closely with service providers such as Wheeler Mission, the PourHouse, with HIP and Horizon House to ensure a proper outreach is conducted. These agencies provide a variety of assistance from mental health workers to food and facilities during these types of emergencies.

Homeless shelters are very crowded during the winter months, but the City does have a plan and our partners are critical to the success of the plan. We want to thank Sgt. Hipple, his staff, and our community partners for all the hard work they do. They are our unsung heroes!

(Response to e-mail on page 3)

Thank you for your kind note, Pastor Miller. Chief Hite and I look forward to speaking with your group the first week of March. The importance of the partnership between community members and the public safety team cannot be overstated. It is vitally important to changing our community for the better.

~ God Bless, Troy



A Cold Winter Means Special Care for Our Pets



"This harsh weather can affect our pets even more quickly than we might expect."

The winter of 2013-14 has already treated us to some very harsh, cold weather. It's important to remember that this harsh weather can affect our pets even more quickly than we might expect.

Bring pets inside if at all possible. When they need to go outside, stay outside with them. If you're cold enough to go back inside, they probably are, too.

If pets will be staying outside for a significant length of time, make sure they have access to a warm, solid shelter with thick bedding and insulation against the cold, and plenty of non-frozen water and food.



Small containers of water can freeze quickly in cold temperatures, and pets that don't have access to water are more likely to drink out of puddles or gutters, which may be polluted with oil, antifreeze, household cleaners or other chemicals. Pet supply stores sell special bowls that keep the water just warm

enough so as not to freeze. These bowls are a necessary investment for outdoor pets or feral cat colonies.

Once pets come back inside, be sure to check their paws. Tender pads can be injured from salts and other ice-melting chemicals. These products can be irritating to the skin and mouth, and dangerous if ingested. Signs of ingestion include excessive drooling, vomiting and depression and veterinary care should be sought immediately.

Long-haired pets can also get clumps of snow caught in the fur between their paw pads. This can be dangerous, and snow clumps should be removed immediately.

Pets are susceptible to frostbite, just like humans. Watch for signs of frostbite on their ears, tail and paw pads, especially. Frostbitten areas may appear pale or gray at first, and will feel hard and cold. As the area thaws, it may turn red. In severe cases, the skin will turn black and "break" off. Seek veterinary care immediately if you suspect your pet may have frostbite.

If you see pets that you suspect are not being properly cared for, you should report the situation to the local authorities. In Marion County, you can call the Mayor's Action Center at 317-327-4MAC or visit the [MAC website](#) to file a report.

Have a question or suggestion for Director Riggs or the Department? Send it our way!

dps@indy.gov



Excellence in Government Award Winners

November and January saw two more opportunities for us to recognize 12 hard-working DPS employees and treat them, and their guests, to a celebration luncheon hosted and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen. All winners and guests pictured with Deputy Director Valerie Washington and Director Troy Riggs.



Debbie Cooper, DPS Finance



Brian Bishop, IEMS



Doug Lackey, IEMS



Shawna Tucker, IFD Communications



Rita Reith, IFD



David Dickens, IMPD

Nominate Continuous Excellence Today

<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>

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Director for a Day - December/January

The Department of Public Safety continued its "Director for a Day" program during December and January, hosting three distinguished guests from a variety of perspectives. Indianapolis Star columnist Matthew Tully, Big Red Liquors owners and K9 philanthropists Mark and Alora McAlister, and Eli Lilly's David Lewis each took a turn in the Director's chair, gaining valuable insights into the complexities of the Indianapolis public safety effort.



Matthew Tully (left) hones his skills in the IMPD Training Academy driving simulator under the watchful eye of Sergeant Jeffrey Horn.

Mark and Alora McAlister (right) last fall funded the addition of "Kimo," a two-year old dog, to IMPD's K9 unit. The McAlisters have grown Big Red to now feature 24 stores in the Indianapolis area.



David Lewis, Vice President of Global Taxes and Chief Tax Executive, Assistant Treasurer for Eli Lilly (left) pictured with (from left to right) Val Washington, Mike Reeves, Director Troy Riggs, Mayor Greg Ballard, Ryan Vaughn and Ted Waldroup.

Want to suggest a good Director for a Day?

Please e-mail us at: dps@indy.gov